

California State Journal of Medicine.

Owned and Published Monthly by the
Medical Society of the State of California

PHILIP MILLS JONES, M. D., Secretary and Editor

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Official Register, . . .

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VOL. XIV JUNE, 1916 No. 6

EDITORIAL NOTES

MALPRACTICE DEFENSE.

In spite of the fact that the relation of the State Society to the various insurance companies and to its members has been repeatedly set forth, letters of inquiry are constantly being received. We would respectfully request all members to read very carefully the information published in the April Journal, particularly on pages 128 and 129, and on pages 132 and 133.

POORLY QUALIFIED.

The following letter, which is published exactly as written except that the names are not given, speaks for itself and shows more clearly than any mere discussion could show the way in which the present medical law and its administration are admitting very poorly qualified persons to practice upon the people of this State:

March 27th, 1916.

Dr. John Doe:

Dear Doctor—Your letter of the 25th, asking for information in regard to Dr. A. B. See, is received. He graduated from the Keokuk Medical College, Iowa, May 26, 1908. He applied for license in this State the same year, and at the examination in August failed with a mark of 58.3. On May 7, 1909, he called at our office and told me that he was licensed in Nevada, that Nevada reciprocated with 16 states, that he could practice there, and before long would come back here and be licensed under reciprocity. In May, 1909, he applied for reciprocity from Nevada with-

out result. He took the examination at Sacramento in December, 1913, and was rejected. He was licensed under reciprocity July 16, 1915, by the State Board of Medical Examiners of California.

This is a typical case of the manner in which the law regulating the practice of medicine in the State of California is being broken down: first, by influences lowering the standards required by law, and second, by the operations of the Board of Examiners in administering the law.

Cordially yours,
(Signed) PHILIP MILLS JONES,
PMJ:S Secretary.

BREACH OF CONTRACT.

In a recent Bulletin of the Los Angeles County Association reference is made to a decision of the supreme court of Mississippi, abstract of which was published in the *Journal A. M. A.*, March 18, 1916, page 915. In this case a physician was held liable for not attending a woman in confinement when he had previously agreed to do so, for the reason that at the time when the woman was delivered he was employed in attending to another patient. This case is somewhat peculiar, and the decision against the physician was probably made for the reason that apparently he made no effort to send someone to take his place. This whole question of the right of a physician or patient to terminate the unwritten contract which exists between them is pretty well and clearly defined at law. The real basis of it may be said to be a matter of simple courtesy of one to the other. If a physician finds himself in a predicament of this kind, and is notified that a woman whom he has previously agreed to confine is about to be confined, and if he is in attendance upon another patient, he should immediately notify the woman to be confined, or her relatives or friends, and make some effort to see that she is properly cared for. The case cited would apparently come somewhat under the decision of the Flood case in this state, where the termination of services was abruptly performed by the physician and without due consideration for the patient.

CALIFORNIA SPRINGS.

The cry of "see America first" has been heard throughout the land. But the European war and the fear of submarines did more than any amount of advertising, to convince the traveling public of the wisdom of heeding the cry. So, too, with our mineral springs, with which this country, like Europe, is richly endowed. The waters of the European Spas can all be duplicated in the United States. Some of them are possibly superior to those of Europe. The great trouble with the springs in this country, is that no real effort has been made to induce people to go to them. In this State, we have no place that really meets the requirements of a first class resort. First class hotels, attractive grounds with an abundance of carefully laid-out walks, convenient drinking places,

proper bathing facilities, carefully planned institutions for hydro- and mechano-therapy,—all these are needed, if a resort is to attract people, or if it expects the support of the medical profession.

It is possible that the profession does not thoroughly appreciate the value of our mineral springs. Too often are we apt to attribute the benefit derived by patients at distant resorts to the change of climate, the interesting trip, the freedom from household or business worries or duties, discounting the effect of the waters, often because the drinking of the same waters after they have been bottled, is devoid of results. Recent observations would seem to lend truth to the belief that waters drunk or bathed in, at their source, are better by far than if the bottled product is used. The discovery of radium in many of the waters in the United States as well as in Europe explains why this may be true.

In Europe, the various municipal and state governments have done much to develop their resorts, not only because of the desire to lessen the suffering of humanity, but because of the revenue ultimately derived therefrom. A few years ago, the State of New York purchased Saratoga Springs. It obtained the services of experts to aid in the restoration of the springs which had suffered at the hands of near-sighted commercial interests. It has spent considerable money; it is to-day beginning to reap its reward; physicians are studying its waters; they expect to find that they are as efficacious as those of Nauheim, Vichy, Kissingen, etc. It will not be long before the cardiac, the nephritic, the gouty, the rheumatic, will be taught to "drink and bathe in America first."

In California we have numerous springs. None of them may be said to be properly managed. They not only lack many of the essentials necessary for successful handling of patients, but no attempt is made to run them on a scientific basis. By their extravagant claims and literature, they create distrust rather than confidence in the minds of the profession.

Might it not be well if our most active and very efficient State Board of Health, among its many other duties, took it upon itself to investigate our California springs, and make recommendations so as to induce private interests, or failing in this, perhaps the legislature, to improve our resorts and place them upon a proper basis.

R. B.

FIRST AID COMMITTEE.

Through an error contained in a circular of information which was received in the JOURNAL office, we published a statement in a recent issue of the JOURNAL, giving the erroneous personnel of the Committee on First Aid of the Medical Society of the State of California. The correction is here and now made. The committee appointed by the president of this society at the time, Dr. Harry M. Sherman, is as follows: L. P. Howe, San Francisco, chairman; E. A. Bryant, Los Angeles, and G. J. Bergener, San Francisco.

SOCIAL OR HEALTH INSURANCE.

As will be seen from the minutes of the House of Delegates at the Fresno meeting, published elsewhere in this issue of the JOURNAL, considerable attention was given to a discussion of this very important subject. The JOURNAL has previously called attention to the fact that in this State a commission to study the whole situation was authorized by the last legislature, and an appropriation of \$20,000 provided for the purpose. The members of this commission are: Miss Barbara Nachtrieb, secretary; Miss Katherine C. Felton, Mrs. Frances Noel, George Dunlop, Dr. Flora W. Smith and Paul Herriott. The American Medical Association, through its Committee on Health and Public Instruction, has created an office at 131 East 23rd Street, New York City, and has placed in charge of it, as Secretary of the committee, Dr. I. M. Rubinow. The purpose of this committee of the A. M. A. is to study thoroughly the whole situation and keep medical men in touch with what is going on. On another page of this issue will be found the first circular of information issued by this committee. The State Society, at the Fresno meeting, authorized the appointment of a committee of the society to confer with the State Commission, which committee is as follows: Dr. René Bine, San Francisco, chairman; Dr. F. F. Gundrum, Sacramento; Dr. Harry M. Sherman, San Francisco; Dr. George G. Reinle, Oakland; Dr. George E. Tucker, Riverside, and Dr. George H. Kress, Los Angeles.

COMMITTEES OF THE STATE SOCIETY.

The president, Dr. George H. Kress, of Los Angeles, has appointed committees as authorized by the House of Delegates at the Fresno meeting, as follows:

PUBLICATION COMMITTEE.

W. P. Lucas, San Francisco; Harry E. Alderson, San Francisco; Sol. Hyman, San Francisco, and René Bine, San Francisco.

COMMITTEE ON INDUSTRIAL ACCIDENT INSURANCE.

C. P. Thomas, Los Angeles, chairman; J. H. Graves, San Francisco; M. R. Gibbons, San Francisco; John C. King, Banning; B. F. Church, San Bernardino, and P. M. Jones, San Francisco.

DIFFICULT SITUATION.

Sometimes the surgeon is confronted by a legal problem of the greatest importance both to his patient and to himself. This is well illustrated in a recent case. The patient suffered from a brain tumor which had so far encroached upon brain tissue as to destroy all memory of recent occurrences, while in no way interfering with past impressions, and threatening loss of sight. To the casual observer he was perfectly sane and he repeatedly refused to consent to an operation. The consultants all recognized that an immediate operation was the only thing offering a possibility of saving his sight and perhaps restoring him to reasonable comfort. What should be done? Should the medical men and the surgeon, realizing the

Medical Colleges. Your Committee recommends the adoption of a resolution endorsing the following proposed act:

There is hereby established a standing committee of four members who shall be respectively the Secretary of the State Board of Medical Examiners, the State Superintendent of Public Instruction, the Dean of the Faculties of the University of California and the Dean of the Medical Department of the University of California, for the following purposes, to wit: When an application shall have been made to the Secretary of State of California for a charter, license, or permit to establish a medical school or any institution to teach the healing art, the said Secretary of State shall require from the applicant or applicants a full statement in affidavit form of the equipment of the proposed school. He shall submit this data to the above described committee and shall not issue said charter, license, or permit until after he shall have received a formal approval of the equipment of the proposed school from the said committee. In this resolution the word equipment shall be understood to include moneys, endowments, lands, or funds of any kind, buildings, books, laboratory and other apparatus to be used in connection with teaching, teachers, instructors, hospital facilities, and any and all other aids to the instruction of students of the healing art. (Carried.)

13. *Concerning the Appointment of a Committee to Confer with the State Social Insurance Commission.* Your Committee recommends that there be appointed by the incoming President, a committee of not less than five members to confer with the State Social Insurance Commission. (Carried.)

14. *Concerning Medical Defense.* Your Committee recommends that the present system of defending malpractice shall be continued. The report of the Secretary and the Council covering the seven years past, during which time this system has been in operation, indicate the increasing value to the members of this Society. We believe that under no circumstances would the Society be willing to abandon this activity. However, many members feel that this safety is incomplete when no provision to pay a possible judgment is provided and many members carry indemnity policies at a considerable annual expense. We believe by the outlay of a small amount that in two or three years a fund could be accumulated, the interest of which would suffice to pay any probable judgment against our members, thus relieving us of continued payment of annual premiums in indemnity policies. (We, therefore, recommend that the Council establish a fund to be used for the purpose of paying judgment against members participating in the accumulation of this fund. Such participation is to be voluntary and the fund is to be derived from subscriptions of \$15.00 per annum for two years from each member who indicates his desire to participate in the benefit of this fund. Should an insufficient number of members indicate a desire to establish such a fund in this way, any

money collected for this purpose shall be returned to the subscriber.)

We, therefore, recommend that this matter be referred to the Council with instructions to take such action as it deems proper in the premises.

On motion of Parkinson, duly seconded and carried, the matter in paragraph 14 which is enclosed in parentheses was struck out, and the following substituted: "We recommend that this matter be left to the Council with instructions to take such action as it deems proper in the premises."

15. *Concerning Those Resolutions that Affect the Operation of the Workmen's Compensation Law.* There were several resolutions offered upon the subject. After due consideration of the various subject matter brought before your Committee, we recommend that the President appoint a committee of not less than five for the purpose of collecting all available information upon this subject and preparing this information for presentation to the House of Delegates at the annual meeting for 1917.

We recommend that no change in the present status be made until such time as the House of Delegates shall be in possession of information which will be supplied by the above mentioned committee.

Respectfully submitted.

F. F. Gundrum, Chairman,
T. C. McCleave,
Geo. E. Tucker.

The report as a whole was then adopted.

NEW BUSINESS.

Dr. Parkinson requested the unanimous consent of the House to introduce the following resolution. Consent having been given, it was introduced and passed by the House.

BE IT RESOLVED, That this body endorses the Keating-Owen bill prohibiting interstate traffic in the products of child labor, and hereby authorizes the President of the Medical Society of the State of California to use all the influence of the Society in the furtherance of this bill.

There being no further business, the minutes of the Second Session were read and approved as read, and the House adjourned *sine die*.

PHILIP MILLS JONES, Secretary.

FRESNO MEETING—THOSE REGISTERED. APRIL 18, 19, 20, 1916.

Adams, L. P., Alameda; Aiken, G. H., Fresno; Alderson, H. E., San Francisco; Alvarez, W. C., San Francisco; Anderson, A. E., Fresno; Anderson, C. W., Los Angeles; Armstrong, J. M., Los Angeles; Arnold, D. E., Fresno; Avery, N. E., Los Angeles.

Baldwin, W. I., San Francisco; Ball, C. D., Orange; Barbat, J. H., San Francisco; Barkan, H., San Francisco; Barnett, G. D., San Francisco; Barnhart, W., Los Angeles; Barrett, G. M., San Francisco; Beasley, S. O., San Francisco; Beerman, W. F., San Francisco; Benedict, W. L., Fresno; Bering, R. E., San Francisco; Bine, R., San Francisco; Birtch, F. W., San Francisco; Black, S. P., Los Angeles; Blackedge, L. N., Tulare; Blair, J. C., Santa Clara; Blake, W. F., San Francisco; Blodgett, T. D., Tulare; Blum, S., San Francisco; Bogle, S. S., San Francisco; Bonyng, C. W., Los Angeles; Bowles, F. H.,

Alameda; Bowman, W. B., Los Angeles; Boyd, W. T., Fresno; Brem, W., Los Angeles; Briggs, G. A., Sacramento; Brinkerhoff, E. E., Alameda; Brown, A., San Francisco; Brown, J. M., Los Angeles; Brown, P. K., San Francisco; Browning, C. C., Los Angeles; Browning, F. W., Alameda; Brunn, H., San Francisco; Bullock, C. T., Sonoma; Bullock, N. P., Santa Clara; Bunnell, S., San Francisco; Burks, F. L. R., Fresno; Butin, M. R., Madera; Byars, A. H., San Diego.

Campbell, F. McL., Mendocino; Campbell, W. H., Santa Barbara; Campiche, P. S., San Francisco; Carpenter, F. B., San Francisco; Catton, J. H., San Francisco; Cecil, A. B., Los Angeles; Chaffin, R. C., Los Angeles; Chiapella, J. O., Butte; Chipman, E. D., San Francisco; Church, B. F., San Bernardino; Clark, W. A., Alameda; Coffey, W. B., San Francisco; Collins, C. D., Fresno; Cooke, A. B., Los Angeles; Copeland, J. A., Kern; Coppedge, W. E., Modoc; Couey, E. J., Fresno; Craig, W. H., San Bernardino; Cross, W. W., Fresno; Craycroft, H. J., Fresno; Cummings, R. S., Los Angeles; Cuttle, F., Kings.

Dameron, J. D., San Joaquin; Davis, B., Merced; Dawson, W. J. G., Sonoma; Dettling, F. E., Los Angeles; Dillingham, F. S., Los Angeles; Dixon, R. E., Kings; Dolan, P. E., Alameda; Dowling, S. W., San Benito; Dudley, W. H., Los Angeles; Dungan, J. F., Tulare.

Ebright, G. E., San Francisco; Edwards, T. C., Monterey; Ellis, H. B., Los Angeles; Ely, L. W., San Francisco; Enloe, N. T., Butte; Enos, M. M., Alameda; Evans, G. H., San Francisco; Eveleth, R. H., Placer; Ewer, E. N., Alameda.

Farmer, L. E., Sacramento; Fish, C. W., Los Angeles; Fishbaugh, E. C., Los Angeles; Fisher, A. L., San Francisco; Fisher, J. T., Los Angeles; Fleischner, E. C., San Francisco; Fleming, L. P., Fresno; Foster, E. C., Kings; Franklin, W. S., San Francisco; Fredrick, M. W., San Francisco; Frick, D. J., Los Angeles; Fry, P. B., Solano; Fuller, R. N., Tulare.

Gatchell, E. F., Butte; Geiger, J. C., Alameda; Gibbons, M. R., San Francisco; Gilbert, W. H., Los Angeles; Gillespie, J. A., Fresno; Girard, F. R., San Francisco; Glaser, E. F., San Francisco; Goodman, Minerva, San Joaquin; Gould, N. B., San Joaquin; Graham, H. B., San Francisco; Graves, J. H., San Francisco; Green, A. S., San Francisco; Griffin, C. F., San Francisco; Grosse, A. B., San Francisco; Gundrum, F. F., Sacramento.

Hablutzel, C. E., Santa Clara; Hagadorn, J. L., Los Angeles; Hamlin, O. D., Alameda; Hanlon, E. W., San Francisco; Hare, C. B., Santa Clara; Hare, G. A., Fresno; Hare, J. D., Fresno; Harry, C. R., San Joaquin; Hastreiter, R. F., Los Angeles; Helms, G. L., Siskiyou; Henderson, A. M., Sacramento; Hilliard, C. G., San Bernardino; Hinman, F., San Francisco; Hoag, C. L., San Francisco; Horn, H., San Francisco; Hoisholt, A. W., Napa; Hopkins, H. H., Fresno; Hosmer, C. M., San Diego; Howard, H. W., Portland, Oregon; Howard, J. L., San Francisco; Howe, L. P., San Francisco; Huggins, W. L., Los Angeles; Hughes, A. L. B., Tulare; Hulen, V. H., San Francisco; Hull, J. P., Kern; Hunt, R. H., Lake; Hunter, G. G., Los Angeles; Huntington, T. W., San Francisco; Hutchison, C. W., Fresno.

Inman, T. F., San Francisco.

Jablons, B., San Francisco; Jackson, J. A., Los Angeles; Jacobson, P. N., Stanislaus; Johnson, E., San Francisco; Johnson, P. V. K., Los Angeles; Johnston, H. A., Orange; Jones, C. B., Sacramento; Jones, E., Los Angeles; Jones, P. M., San Francisco; Jones, R. M., Fresno; Jordan, P. A., Santa Clara; Jorgensen, N., Fresno; Judell, M. I., San Francisco.

Kelly, A. S., Alameda; Kenyon, C. G., San Francisco; Kerr, W. W., San Francisco; Kiefer, H. A., Los Angeles; Kiger, W. H., Los Angeles; King, J. C., Riverside; King, M. M., Los Angeles;

Kjaerbye, C. P., Fresno; Kress, G. H., Los Angeles; Krotoszyner, M., San Francisco; Kyle, J. J., Los Angeles.

Lamkin, B. B., Fresno; Langnecker, H. L., San Francisco; Lewis, W. M., Los Angeles; Lilly, W. E., Merced; Lippman, C. W., San Francisco; Lipson, I. M., Tulare; Lockwood, C. D., Los Angeles; Long, S. M., Fresno; Loper, A. N., Tulare; Lucas, W. T., Santa Barbara; Lynch, F. W., San Francisco.

MacGowan, G., Los Angeles; Mack, C. W., Alameda; Madden, T. F., Fresno; Malsbary, G. E., Los Angeles; Manson, G., Fresno; Marsh, O. G., San Diego; Martin, H. R., Riverside; Mathewson, C., Fresno; Matson, R. C., Portland, Ore.; Mattison, F. C. E., Los Angeles; Mays, A. H., Marin; McChesney, G. J., San Francisco; McCleave, T. C., Alameda; McClenahan, H. C., San Francisco; McConnell, A. B., Fresno; McCoy, T. J., Los Angeles; McCullough, F. E., Placer; McKenney, J. H., Fresno; McLean, A. D., Tulare; McNaught, H., San Francisco; Mehrrens, H. G., San Francisco; Melvin, J. T., Tulare; Meux, T. R., Fresno; Miller, A., Tulare; Miller, F. W., Los Angeles; Miller, R. W., Los Angeles; Miller, W. P., Fresno; Milton, J. L., Alameda; Mitchell, C. O., Fowler; Moffitt, H. C., San Francisco; Molony, M., San Francisco; Molony, W. R., Los Angeles; Montgomery, J., Grand Forks, North Dakota; Moore, E. C., Los Angeles; Moore, H. S., San Francisco; Moore, R., Los Angeles; Morgan, J. D., Jr., Fresno; Morton, A. W., San Francisco; Moseley, G. G., San Bernardino; Moulton, D. H., Butte; Mudd, J. L., Merced.

Naffziger, H. C., San Francisco; Neel, J. C., San Francisco; Nelson, C. F., Los Angeles; Nelson, J. E., San Joaquin; Newell, E., Santa Clara; Newman, H. P., San Diego; Nicholson, A. R., Fresno; Nicholson, J. W., Tulare.

O'Brien, J. T., Sonoma; O'Connor, R., Alameda; Offield, A. L., San Mateo; Oliver, H. R., San Francisco; O'Neill, A. A., San Francisco.

Painter, G. L., San Francisco; Paine, J. C., Tulare; Parker, A. S., San Bernardino; Parker, T. A., San Diego; Parkinson, J. H., Sacramento; Peers, R. A., Placer; Peery, J. T., Kings; Peterson, A., Los Angeles; Pettis, J. H., Fresno; Phillips, L. E., Santa Clara; Phillips, P. T., Santa Cruz; Phillips, W. A., Santa Cruz; Pickett, J. C., San Francisco; Pierce, A. T., Alameda; Pinniger, S. E. D., San Joaquin; Pischel, K., San Francisco; Plymire, D. B., San Francisco; Pollock, R., San Diego; Pond, H. M., Alameda; Pottenger, F. M., Los Angeles; Powell, B. J., San Joaquin; Powell, D., Yuba; Power, H. D'A., San Francisco; Powers, L. M., Los Angeles; Preston, A. Q., Tulare; Pringle, J. T., Tulare.

Ransom, D. H., Madera; Reamer, E. F., Stanislaus; Reardan, F. B., Merced; Rehfish, J. M., Alameda; Reinle, G. G., Alameda; Reynolds, F. W., Los Angeles; Richardson, W. W., Los Angeles; Rigdon, R. L., San Francisco; Rinkenberger, F. W., Los Angeles; Rinker, C. L. A., Madera; Rixford, E., San Francisco; Rogers, A. R., Los Angeles; Rogers, F. L., Los Angeles; Rogers, T. L., Los Angeles; Rosenkranz, H. A., Los Angeles; Roth, L. J., Los Angeles; Rowell, H. N., Alameda; Rude, A. E., San Francisco; Ruggles, H. E., San Francisco; Ryfkogel, H. A. L., San Francisco.

Sawyer, W. A., Sacramento; Schaller, W. F., San Francisco; Schmoll, E., San Francisco; Schottstaedt, W. R., Fresno; Schwuchow, W. B., Los Angeles; Sewall, E. C., San Francisco; Sharp, J. G., San Francisco; Sherk, H. H., Los Angeles; Sherman, H. M., San Francisco; Shook, F. M., Alameda; Shulman, L., Los Angeles; Simpson, W., Santa Clara; Skoonberg, A. E., Fresno; Sleeper, K. R., Los Angeles; Smith, D., Alameda; Smith, T. D., Fresno; Smyth, M. H., San Joaquin; Smythe, H., San Joaquin; Soiland, A., Los Angeles; Spalding, A. B., San Francisco; Speed, E. S., Fresno;

Staniford, K. J., Fresno; Steinwand, O. W., Fresno; Stevens, W. E., San Francisco; Stillman, S., San Francisco; Stoddard, T. A., San Francisco; Stover, W. M., San Luis Obispo; Strietmann, W. H., Alameda; Strong, D. C., San Bernardino; Sullivan, J. F., San Francisco; Surryhne, B. F., Stanislaus; Sweeney, A. H., Fresno; Sweet, E., Los Angeles; Sweet, R. B., Los Angeles.

Tait, D., San Francisco; Taltavall, W. A., San Bernardino; Taubles, G. H., San Francisco; Terry, W. I., San Francisco; Thomas, C. P., Los Angeles; Thomas, H. G., Alameda; Thompson, G. E., Fresno; Tourtillott, W. W., Tulare; Trowbridge, D. H., Fresno; Tucker, G. E., Riverside; Tupper, R. B., San Francisco; Twitchell, E. W., Sacramento.

Van Nuys, R. G., Alameda; Van Zwaluwenburg, C., Riverside; Vecki, V. G., San Francisco; Victors, E., San Francisco; Von Adelung, E., Alameda; Voorsanger, W. C., San Francisco; Walker, G. W., San Joaquin; Walker, J. R., Fresno; Walters, P. R., Tulare; Ward, M. W., Yolo; Warmer, C. A., San Bernardino; Welty, C. F., San Francisco; White, C. M., Tulare; Whitten, W. D., San Diego; Wiley, E. H., Los Angeles; Williams, E. H., San Francisco; Williams, R., Los Angeles; Wills, C. A., Alameda; Wills, W. LeM., Los Angeles; Willson, L. R., Fresno; Wintermute, G. P., San Francisco; Witherbee, O. O., Los Angeles; Wolfsohn, J. M., San Francisco.

Yates, J. C., San Diego.

Zeiler, A. H., Los Angeles.

NOTICE!

IMPORTANT!

NEXT MONTH'S JOURNAL

WILL

CONTAIN

A

MOST

IMPORTANT

ANNOUNCEMENT

RELATING

TO

MEDICAL DEFENSE

INDEMNITY

THE CONSERVATION OF VISION.*

By GEORGE H. KRESS, M. D., Los Angeles; Chairman of the Conservation of Vision Committee of the Medical Society of the State of California.

Blindness, partial or complete, can seriously handicap a fellow being throughout life, subjecting him not alone to physical misery, but oftentimes also to economic retrogression or relegation. The campaign for the conservation of vision is, therefore, becoming more and more the recipient of serious attention and action by the medical profession, the laity, and the officials of our city, State and national governments.

It may be said that only in recent years has the economic loss accruing from partial or complete blindness really begun to dawn upon us; but in the brief period during which the conservation of vision campaign has been on, the facts and figures which have been gathered are so conclusive and illuminating that there can be no longer any doubt existent as to necessity of action. The proposition now before us is one of methods to be adopted, and of securing the wherewithal with which to put them into force.

For convenience in the discussion of our subject, it will be here dealt with under the three heads of:

1. *Refractive Errors*, or defects of vision, which should be attacked and corrected, if possible, during school age;

2. *Diseases of the Eyes*, which are apt to lead to blindness, with all the economic and personal horror which the word blindness implies, the particular disease here to be discussed being that of gonorrhea; and

3. *Injuries to the Eyes*, the group of shop accidents being here especially referred to.

I. REFRACTIVE ERRORS.

Returning now to the first major group of eye defects just enumerated, namely of refractive errors, particularly those of school children, we are at once confronted with the fact that about seventy per cent. of all school children have physical defects of some type, and that these physical defects of various kinds seriously handicap these children in their physical and mental growth; and that resulting therefrom there is an increased expenditure by the State to give such backward children their education, as well as the other fact that such backward children fall to or take a lower place on the social or economic scale, in case these defects be not remedied, than would otherwise be the case.

The above state of affairs being true, we are, therefore, brought face to face at once with the fact that physical defects of the race have a most important relationship, not only to the happiness and prosperity of individual citizens, but to the welfare of the nation as a whole.

But unfortunately, just as in the case of some of the infectious diseases like tuberculosis, many of those who are already afflicted with defects of vision can have comparatively little done for them; so that the problem in preventive medicine which here confronts us in our conservation of vision campaign is one that must especially aim to reach

* Read before the Eighth Congress of the American School Hygiene Association, Saturday, June 26, 1915, San Francisco, Cal.

All hay-fever weeds are wind-pollinated, otherwise their pollen would not be in the air to irritate the nostrils of susceptible persons. Bright colors and sweet scent are intended to attract insects for fertilization, and are therefore absent in hay-fever weeds which are wind-pollinated.

Among the hay-fever weeds which will soon be in flower and distribute their noxious pollen are the yellow dock (*Rumex crispus*), careless weed (*Amaranthus spinosus*), cockle bur (*Xanthium strumarium*), etc. The grasses also are noxious to a certain class of hay-fever sufferers and should not be allowed to bloom unless intended for seed.

Dr. Scheppegrell, president of the American Hay-Fever Prevention Association, calls attention to the daisy fleabane (*Erigeron*) which is beginning to bloom and whose toxicity has recently been established by this association. Children collect these flowers and in one whiff will inhale sufficient pollen to cause a paroxysm of hay-fever lasting three to five days. Such attacks are almost invariably attributed to "colds," the real cause not being suspected. It may, in addition, cause a "sensitization," which will make the child susceptible to hay fever in later years.

From an agricultural standpoint, weeds already cost the farmer millions of dollars annually. When we add to this the economic loss due to hay-fever caused by these weeds, several millions may easily be added. The representatives of our agricultural and legislative interests should therefore unite with the health authorities to eradicate the hay-fever weeds, which are alike a nuisance to agriculture and a reproach to preventive medicine.

BIRTH REGISTRATION IN SAN FRANCISCO.

At the Civic Auditorium during Baby Week, March 9-16, 1916, an opportunity was given parents and friends to register every baby under a year of age.

These cards were filled out and sent to the Department of Vital Statistics at the State Board of Health:

BIRTH REGISTRATION

The Baby's Right as a Citizen.

Fill out this card and we can tell whether your baby is recorded by the State of California.

Baby's Name.....
Address (at time of birth).....
Date of Birth.....
Parents' Names.....
Address (now).....
Doctor's or Midwife's Name.....

The results are as follows:

	On File
From San Francisco county....143	110
From other counties.....13	8
	<hr/> 155 118

Thus 76.1% were recorded and 23.9% were not recorded.

At a similar examination made last year in Los Angeles 60% of births were found to be recorded.

The matter of birth registration is one of serious import to the child, both for a working certificate if he has to leave school for that purpose, and for establishment of citizenship in the United States. To be within the registration district of the United States a state must register at least 90% of all births. This failure to comply with the State Law is due to lack of appreciation of the value of the registration on the part of the physician in charge and it is hoped that this small investigation will bear fruit in better birth registration.

The State Board of Health's department of vital statistics will look over any group of cards similar to these provided they are collected for babies under one year.

ADELAIDE BROWN,

Member State Board of Health.
Chairman Public Health Committee, San Francisco Civic Centre.

NEW MEMBERS.

Dotson, Eli E., Escondido.
Scott, Gavin S., Ramona.
Pickard, Rawson Jos., San Diego.
McGinnis, George Henry, San Diego, Cal.
Riewel, Henry V., Oceanside, Cal.
Wessels, Andrew Benj., San Diego, Cal.
Myers, Alfred Edward, San Francisco.
Freyermuth, O. G., San Francisco.
Thomas, Robt. W., San Diego.
Thayer, Lyman Elanson, Los Angeles.
Brown, Joseph Richard, San Francisco.
Helms, George L., Hilts, Cal.
Hatteroth, W. H., San Francisco.
Dannenbaum, S. R., San Francisco.
Franklin, Blake, Sacramento.
Downing, W. E., Rio Vista.
Stevenson, Geo. L., Sacramento.
Bramhall, R. N., Fair Oaks.
Young, Philip G., Sacramento.
Jablons, Benjamin, San Francisco.
Felch, M. F., San Francisco.
Neel, Jos. Craig, San Francisco.
Spalding, Robt. B., San Francisco.
Cohn, Herbert J., San Francisco.
Barnett, George DeForest, San Francisco.
Kimberlin, Lester O., San Francisco.
Mehrtens, Henry George, San Francisco.
Crow, Lloyd Benj., San Francisco.
Catton, J. H., San Francisco.
Reed, A. C., San Francisco.
Langnecker, Harry L., San Francisco.
Hogan, J. J., Vallejo.
Falconer, E. H., San Francisco.
Means, Sam'l W., San Francisco.
Mardis, B. A., San Francisco.
Laughlin, C. B., San Francisco.
Evans, Newton Gurdon, Loma Linda, Cal.
Hoare, Harry J., Loma Linda, Cal.
Hill, H. G., Redlands.
Power, W. B., Redlands.
Trott, Leslie De Nyse, Loma Linda.
Baylis, J. N., San Bernardino.
Ruble, W. A., Loma Linda.
Herzer, Fred E., Loma Linda.
Kroll, Fred W., San Francisco.
Nottage, H. P., Oakland.
Cunningham, Ruby L., Berkeley.
Risdon, Ruth C., Berkeley.
Tralle, Geo. M., Santa Ana.
Lavery, Wm. A., Sierra City.
Burkard, Adrian F., Santa Barbara.
Brown, Fred A., Lompoc.
Pierce, Horace Fred'k, Santa Barbara.
Barbour, L. P., Rialto, Cal.
Wickett, Wm. H., Los Angeles.
Crawford, Jas. P., San Quentin.
Sullivan, Walter H., Sausalito.
Sweet, Carrol Lincoln, Elk.
Fisher, D., Merced.
Abrons, Harry, Napa.
Ogden, G. W., Napa.
McAuley, John, Santa Ana.
Robertson, H. M., Santa Ana.
Shook, Francis Marion, Oakand.

RESIGNED.

Yost, John Dixon, San Francisco.
McDonnold, P. E., Los Angeles.
Sawyer, H. C., San Francisco.

DEATHS.

Paterson, E. M., San Jose.
McDermott, W. P., San Francisco (died in Los Altos).
Koeberle, Theodore, Los Angeles.
Turnbull, Walter Lathrop (died in San Francisco).
Wilcox, N. J., Oakland, Cal.
Correction:—Dr. William Hayden Campbell is not deceased, as reported; is improving in health.
Stafford, Auren A., Alameda, Cal.
Hedgpeth, Wm. R., Paso Robles, Cal.
Wing, Elbert, Los Angeles.